UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

GERALD E. GROFF,

Case No. 5:19-cv-01879-JLS

Plaintiff,

JOINT STATUS REPORT

v.

Pretrial Conference: Date: March 4, 2025 Time: 10:30 a.m. ET

LOUIS DEJOY, POSTMASTER GENERAL, UNITED STATES POSTAL

Before: Honorable Jeffrey L. Schmehl

SERVICE,

Defendant.

I. Status of the Case

The parties have concluded factual discovery. Because expert discovery was stayed pending the outcome of the summary judgment motions, expert discovery has not yet concluded. The parties anticipate concluding expert discovery by April 30, 2025.

II. Trial Scheduling

The parties anticipate that the jury trial in this matter will take 3-5 days. The parties are conferring about potential trial dates, with a final pretrial conference be set for approximately one to two weeks before trial. Plaintiff is available for trial the weeks of May 12 and May 26 and the weeks of June 1, June 9, and June 16. Defendant can be available for trial any week before May 26. Defendant's strong preference, subject to the Court's availability, would be to schedule trial for the week of May 12 or any time before then—because one of Defendant's counsel, Fernando Rivera, goes on parental leave starting May 27. The parties can discuss further availability with the Court at the upcoming conference.

III. Settlement

The parties agree that a settlement conference or mediation may be productive, and they have agreed to conduct such discussions as soon as practical in order to conserve resources and avoid potentially unnecessary expense on expert discovery. The parties have reached out to Magistrate Judge Straw about available dates in the coming weeks and will inform the Court if the case settles.

Respectfully submitted this 25th day of February 2025.

COUNSEL FOR PLAINTIFF:

Hiram S. Sasser, III Stephanie N. Taub FIRST LIBERTY INSTITUTE 2001 W. Plano Pkwy., Ste. 1600 Plano, TX 75075 Tel: (972) 941-4444

Alan J. Reinach Jonathon Cherne CHURCH STATE COUNCIL 2686 Townsgate Road Westlake Village, CA 91361 Tel: (805) 413-7398

Randall Luke Wenger Jeremy L. Samek INDEPENDENCE LAW CENTER 23 North Front Street Harrisburg, PA 17101 Tel: (717) 657-4990 /s/ Joel A. Ready Joel Aaron Ready Cornerstone Law Firm 8500 Allentown Pike Suite 3 Blandon, PA 19510 Tel: (610) 926-7875

George Fibbe (*PHV pending*) Scott Nelson (*PHV pending*) Aaron M. Streett Christopher E. Tutunjian Beau Carter BAKER BOTTS L.L.P. 910 Louisiana St. Houston, TX 77002 Tel: (713) 229-1234

Attorneys for Plaintiff Gerald E. Groff

COUNSEL FOR DEFENDANT:

NELSON S.T. THAYER United States Attorney

/s/ Gregory B. in den Berken

Gregory B. in den Berken Fernando I. Rivera Assistant United States Attorneys Eastern District of Pennsylvania 615 Chestnut Street, Suite 1250 Philadelphia, PA 19106

Phone: (215) 861-8200

Email: gregory.indenberken@usdoj.gov

fernando.rivera@usdoj.gov